

**USAID/FFP Cash Assistance  
Post Distribution Monitoring  
Yobe State, Nigeria  
September 2015**



USAID/Food For Peace Cash Assistance Project

Yobe State, Nigeria

September 2015

**Funded by:**



---

*This Post Distribution Monitoring report is made possible by the generous support of the American people through Food For Peace (USAID/FFP). The contents are the responsibility of Action Against Hunger and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID/FFP, the United States Government.*



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| TABLE OF CONTENTS .....  | iii |
| 1. INTRODUCTION .....    | 1   |
| 2. METHODOLOGY .....     | 1   |
| 3. RESULTS .....         | 1   |
| 4. CONCLUSIONS.....      | 7   |
| 5. Recommendations ..... | 7   |



## 1. INTRODUCTION

Action Against Hunger – Nigeria (AAH) is implementing a cash transfer program in Yobe State funded by USAID/Food For Peace, covering Damaturu, Potiskum and Fune Local Government Authorities (LGA). The program is aiming at “Improving Food Access and Nutrition for Vulnerable Displaced and Host Populations in Yobe State (Damaturu, Potiskum & Fune) in North-Eastern Nigeria.” 3,000 beneficiaries are receiving a 10,000 Naira (NGN) cash or food voucher monthly allowance that they can use or withdraw direct to 12 traders or money agents contracted by AAH.

The Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) aims at assessing the efficiency of the modality chosen and the effectiveness of the project activities. The PDM results will be compared to the previous PDM (May, June and August) and the baseline results collected in January 2015 in all 3 LGAs.

This PDM was conducted in September, covering the payment done in August which is the fifth monthly payment distributed during the course of the program.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

A total of 3,000 households are benefiting from the USAID/FFP cash transfer program, out of which, 398 households were interviewed during this survey.

During this survey, 178 beneficiaries were assessed in Damaturu LGA, 135 in Potiskum LGA and 85 in Fune. A team of 6 enumerators were trained and involved in the data collection during 4 days.

## 3. RESULTS

Among the beneficiaries interviewed during those two PDMs, 70.9% are IDPs and 29.1% are from the host communities. 55.3% are benefiting from food vouchers transfers and 44.7% are benefiting from cash transfers. In Damaturu and Potiskum LGAs, beneficiaries have access to both modalities, while in Fune LGA, no money agent was available, thus beneficiaries are only benefiting from food vouchers.

In the households interviewed, the decision on how to use the cash allowance received is at majority taken by women (55.3%), 36.2% are sharing the responsibility and in 8.5% of the households the decision is taken by men. If we look at who is collecting the money on monthly basis, for 51.8% it's the card holder registered (head of household), for 41.2% it's the woman of the household and for 7% it's the man of the household.

### a) Process findings

- Delivery system

Among the beneficiaries interviewed, 100% reported being satisfied with the program implemented by AAH-Nigeria. Concerning the modalities and services offered, 90.5% (360HH) are satisfied and 9.5% are unsatisfied. 35HH reported an increase in the food prices (31HH in Fune LGA, 3HH in Potiskum and 1HH in Damaturu), 3 HH in Fune reported a lack of food availability in traders shop, and 1HH reported issues with the traders' devices in Fune.

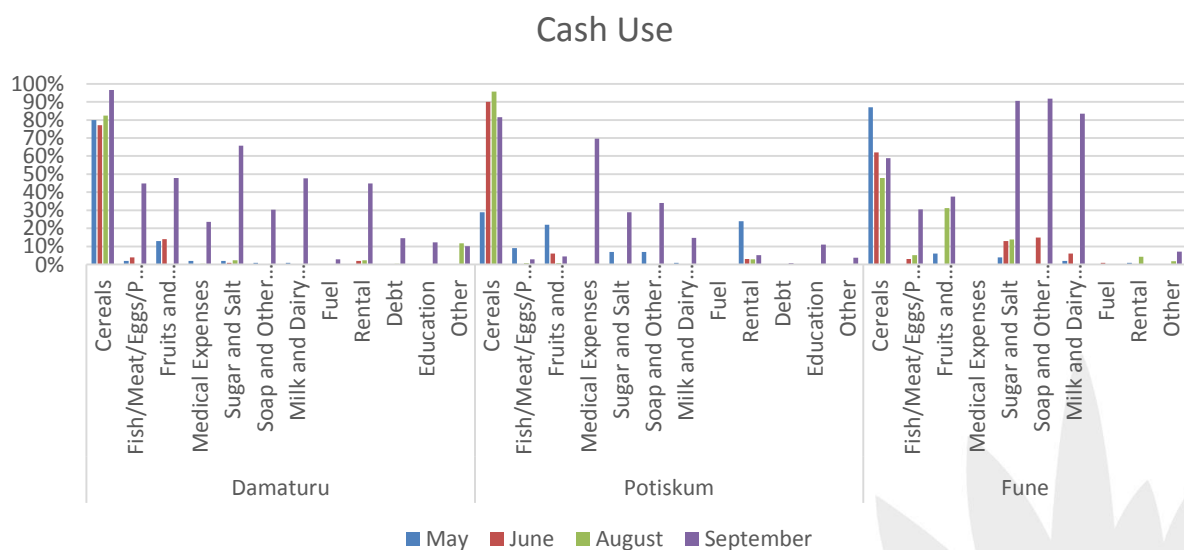
- Cash use

As mentioned above in Fune LGA, the beneficiaries are only provided food vouchers, whereas in Damaturu and Potiskum LGAs, they have access to cash and food vouchers. When given the choice between cash or food vouchers, 34.3% of the beneficiaries will choose food vouchers over cash in Damaturu, while they are 58.8% in Potiskum to prefer the food vouchers.

While looking at how the cash or food voucher was used, we noticed that in Fune, the percentage of households buying cereals has increased since the last PDM, with 59% of the HH in September and 48% in August. Even if this percentage has increased between August and September, it has decreased since the beginning of the program, as in May and June respectively 87% and 48% of the households were buying cereals. This decrease can be explained by the increase of the meat/fish, fruits/vegetables purchases, sugar and salt. Indeed, in September 31% of households reported to have bought meat or fish, while they were 5% in August. Regarding the fruits and vegetables, 38% reported to have bought some in September, while they were 31% in August. For the sugar and salt, they were 91% in September while 14% in August.

For Potiskum and Damaturu, the percentage buying cereals remains high in September, with 81% and 97% of the households. But as they have access to cash, their purchases are more diverse. In Damaturu, the same increase has been noticed for meat/fish, fruits/vegetables and sugar and salt than in Fune. But we also have a significant increase in the percentage of households using their cash to pay their rent in Damaturu (45% in September, 2% in August), to reimburse their debts (15% in September, 0% in August) and to pay for their children's education (12% in September, 0% in August).

In Potiskum, while looking at food expenses, sugar and salt have increased from 0% in August to 29% in September and the milk/dairy products have increases from 0% in August to 15%. The major expenses reported were medical expenses, which reached 70% in September while it was not reported in the previous PDMs. Education increased to 11% of the households in September, while none of the households reported this expense before.

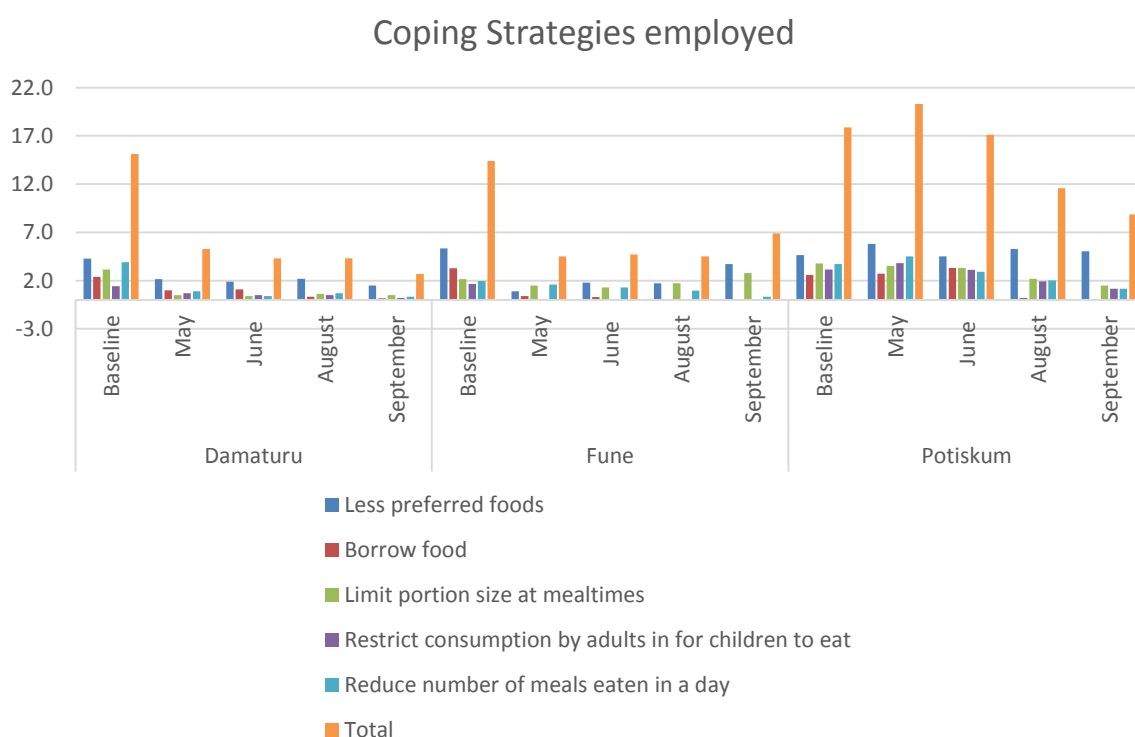


2 HH in Potiskum who used food vouchers reported to have sold some food items to be able to

pay for medical expenses. And 2HH in Damaturu reported to have sold their commodities to be able to afford rent.

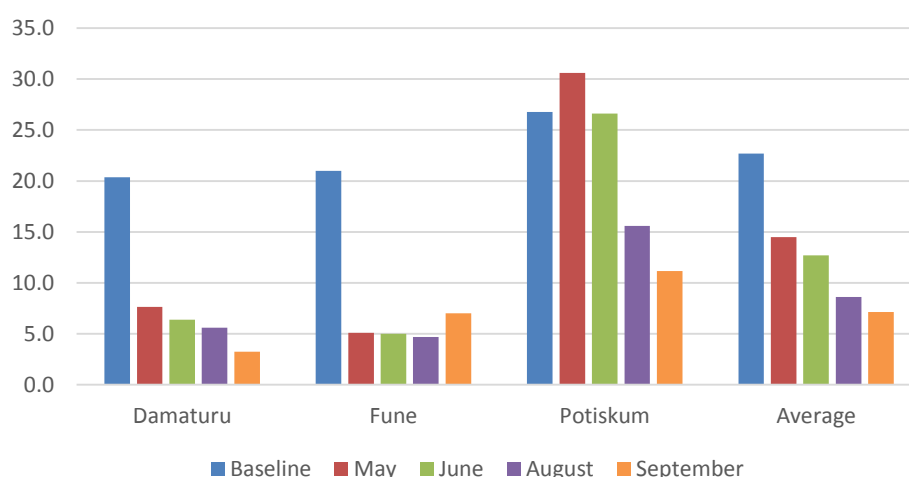
## b) Household Coping Strategies

Applying the reduced coping strategy index (CARE/WFP, 2008), a comparison between January's baseline and the 4 PDMs (May, June, August and September) was done. When asking household application of suggested coping strategies when experiencing food shortages during the past week, households reported using especially, *relying on less preferred foods*, with an average of 4.8 days in January, 3 days in May, 2.7 days in June, 3.1 days in August and 3.4 days in September. In September, if the average is decreasing, it's mainly due to an important decrease in Potiskum and Damaturu with respectively 11.2 days and 3.2 days in September compared to 15.6 and 5.6 in August. In Fune, households interviewed reported having resorting to negative coping strategies more often than in August, 7 in September while 4.7 in August.



Additionally, the households coping strategy index was calculated using a severity score (1-3) for more and less severe strategies being employed, based on the Standard Coping Strategy Index tool (Care/WFP, 2008). The maximum score feasible is 56, indicating all coping strategies are used over the past seven days. While during the baseline, the average score across the LGAs was 22.7, in the last 3 PDMs, this average score is decreasing with respectively 14.5 in May, 12.7 in June and 8.6 in August, while for September the score is 7.1. Those scores indicate a major decrease especially with the use of “*borrow food, or rely on help from friend or relative*”. Potiskum still scored higher than the two other LGA but resorting to all coping strategies are decreasing on regular basis.

## Reduced Coping Strategy Index

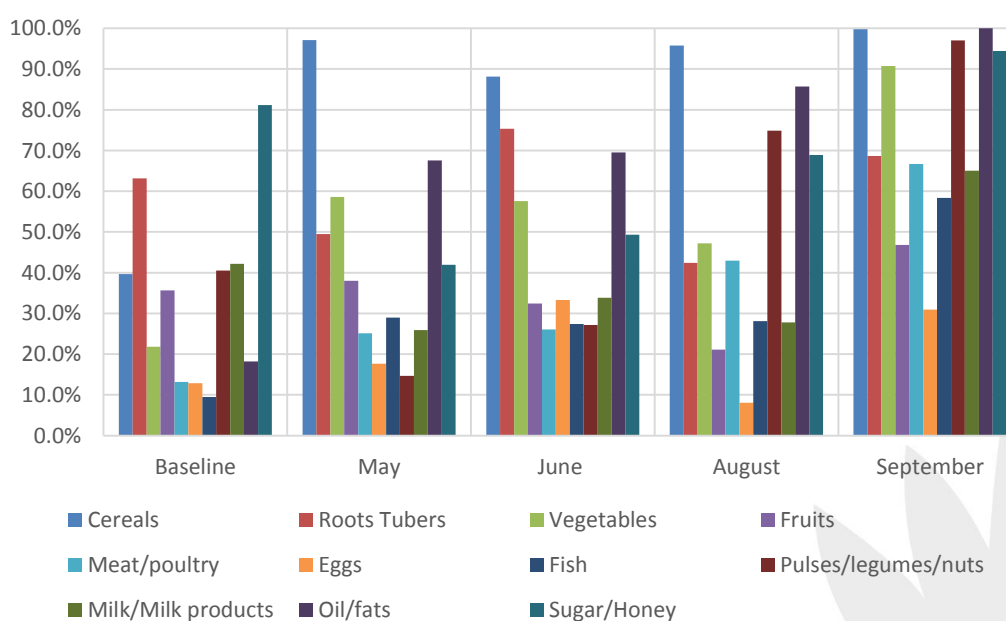


### c) Household Food Consumption Score

Using the standard Household Dietary Diversity Score (FANTA, 2006), households indicated the number of consumed food groups over the past 24 hours. Starchy foods like cereal and tubers, as well as oil and legumes were the main consumed foods. While comparing the baseline to the three PDMs, we can notice a clear increase in the cereals consumption with 39.7% in the baseline (mainly due to Damaturu where none of the beneficiaries reported consuming cereals), 97.1% in May, 88.1% in June and 95.8% in August.

In September PDM, all food groups consumption have increased. The major increases observed are for the vegetables who have been consumed by 90.8% in September while they were 47.2% in August, Fish with 58.4% in September compared to 21.1% in August, milk and dairy products with 65.1% in September compared to 27.8% in August.

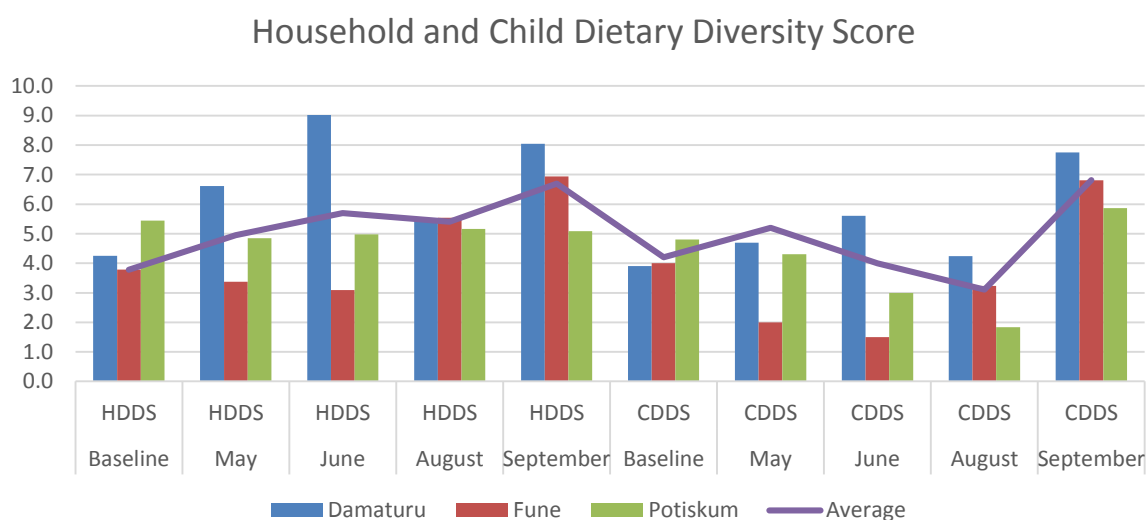
## Food Consumption



In parallel, households were asked about the consumption of food groups by children under 5 years of age. A similar pattern was observed as the adults.

While calculating the household dietary diversity score, an overall increase was noticed in September compared to August (from 5.4 to 6.7). August was a breaking point observed as the HDDS has continually increased over the course of the program except during this specific month. It's important to note that the HDDS is increasing in Damaturu and Fune in September, but slightly decreasing in Potiskum (5.2 in August and 5.1 in September). During the baseline the HDDS was 3.8, 4.9 in May, 5.7 in June, 5.4 in August and 6.7 in September.

While looking at the Child Dietary Diversity Score (CDDS), we noticed a major increase in the results compared to the previous months. In September, the CDDS is comparable to the HDDS and even higher in Potiskum. Indeed, during the baseline the average CDDS was 4.2, 5.2 in May, 4 in June, 3.1 in August and 6.8 in September.



#### d) Feedback and complaints mechanism

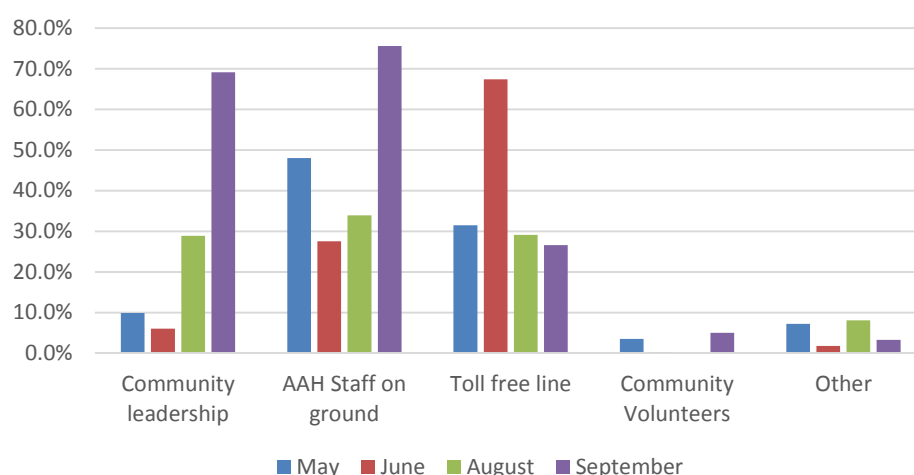
In order to receive beneficiaries' feedback and complaints, AAH-Nigeria has established two toll-free lines across Yobe State (one with MTN and one with Airtel networks). AAH-Nigeria is also working closely with the community leaders to allow them to receive direct feedbacks from the beneficiaries and has also set-up AAH teams directly inside each LGA to allow for a close follow-up of the beneficiaries.

The September results show a large resort to community leaders and/or AAH staff present on the ground, instead of using the toll free line. More sensitization on the hotline is needed at field level. Over the period, 28.6% of the households interviewed were satisfied with AAH's hotline.

- 17.3% of the HH didn't know there was a hotline available
- 31.7% of the HH didn't have answers when they tried to reach the hotline
- 1.8% of the HH never got feedback from AAH
- 1.8% of the HH answered that the hotline was not a toll free line.
- 47.5% of the HH didn't use the hotline as they didn't have any complaints.



## Feedback mechanisms used



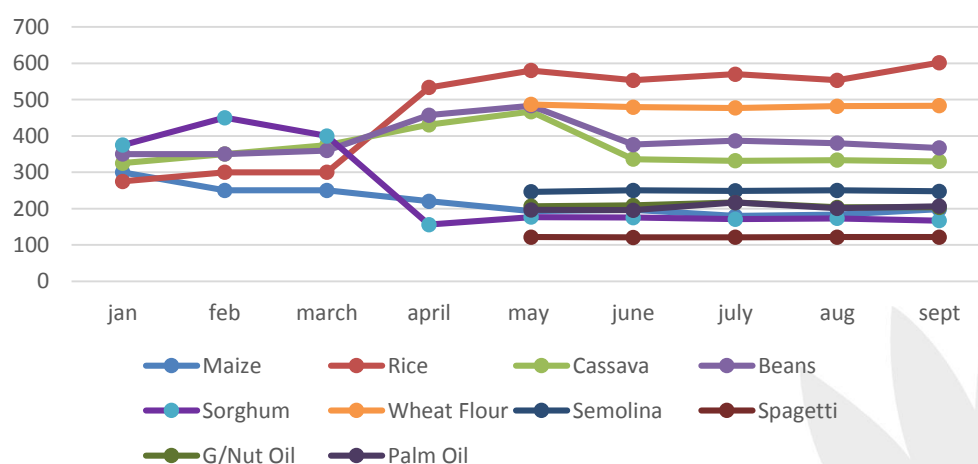
During this PDM, 2HH (0.5%) of the persons interviewed reported that they had to give money away over the last month. Further investigations will need to be conducted on this issue.

### e) Price monitoring

AAH-Nigeria is conducting price monitoring on bi-weekly basis; 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> week of each month in each LGA targeted by the program. The data collection started in January 2015, with a monitoring on 5 commodities (maize, rice, cassava, beans, sorghum). After the first disbursement, 5 additional commodities were added (wheat flour, semolina, spaghetti, groundnut oil, palm oil) to be monitored as part of the main commodities of the beneficiary food basket.

Compared to August, the overall food basket monitored has increased 1.5% in September, mainly due to an increase in the prices of maize and rice, respectively 8% and 8.7%. Those increases can be explain by the seasonal effect. Although, the government has limited the importation of rice in the country which could impact long-term prices. This specific will need to be closely monitored as being one of the most purchased food item by the beneficiaries, and further assessment needs to be done in knowing the origin of the rice consumed and measure the impact on the exchange with neighboring countries.

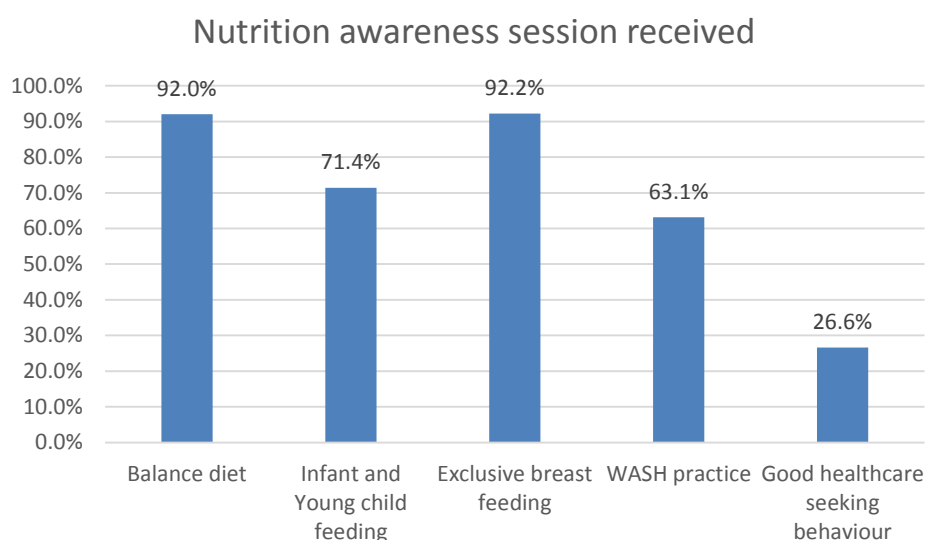
## Prices Monitoring



### f) Nutrition

The FFP program also includes a nutrition component through household awareness. Among the beneficiaries interviewed, 94% of them have received nutrition awareness, 93.9% of them through AAH staff, 93% through community volunteers, 7.3% through ministry staff, and 0.5% through other INGOs.

While looking at the messages received by the households, we can see that main topics have been covered.



#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

Overall, when comparing the data collected during the baseline survey, all food security indicators have improved in September. The cash intervention has had a major impact on beneficiaries' living conditions.

If the cash intervention helps to improve all indicators, further assessments need to be done as certain issues and questions are still pending. Indeed, in June 41% of the beneficiaries assessed complained on the increase of the prices which was already the case in August while prices were stable.

There is a need to improve the hotline's efficiency as 31.7% of the beneficiaries complained that no one answered when they tried to reach it.

#### 5. Recommendations

- Urgent closer monitoring of the traders' prices is needed, especially in June. Ensure that trader's prices are monitored on monthly basis and a follow-up is done.
- Traders' PDM must be done as soon as possible.
- Further assessment on regional food trade to be done.
- Urgent need to redefine the set-up of the hotline management in order to ensure beneficiaries have a proper access and feedback.
- Investigation on beneficiaries having to give part of their cash allowance is required.